



Could Asteroid Apophis's 2029 Approach Hold Prophetic Significance? Could It Signal the Rapture's Imminence?

Sixbert SANGWA • January 27, 2025

Throughout history, the heavens have inspired both awe and fear. From ancient myths to modern scientific discoveries, celestial phenomena have captured humanity's imagination. Among these, the asteroid Apophis, expected to approach Earth on Friday, April 13, 2029, has drawn significant attention. Some believe this event could correlate with the apocalyptic "Wormwood" star described in the Book of Revelation. Could Apophis indeed be a harbinger of biblical prophecy, or is it merely another astronomical occurrence? To answer this question, it is essential to understand Apophis from both scientific and biblical perspectives, while exploring its symbolic and prophetic significance.

Apophis: A Scientific Perspective

Discovered in 2004, Apophis was initially classified as a potentially hazardous asteroid due to its proximity to Earth's orbit. Named after the Egyptian deity of chaos and destruction, Apophis is an asteroid approximately 1,100 feet in diameter, traveling at a staggering speed of 28,000 miles per hour. Weighing about 20 million metric tons, its impact—should it collide with Earth—would release energy equivalent to one billion tons of TNT, akin to 65,000 nuclear warheads ([NASA, 2021](#)). According to astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson ([2008](#)), the devastation from such an event could crack Earth's mantle, causing global calamity. NASA initially raised alarms about Apophis' potential to strike Earth. While further observations suggest it will miss by about 19,000 miles, this distance is alarmingly close in cosmic terms, dipping below the orbit of communication satellites ([NASA, 2021](#)). However, some experts challenge NASA's calculations. Mathematician Harry Leer has voiced concerns that NASA's estimates may be off by as much as 600,000 miles, prompting him to petition for a peer review of their data ([Leer, 2023](#)). Similarly, Nathan Myhrvold, former chief scientist at Microsoft, published a peer-reviewed study suggesting that Apophis' trajectory is more uncertain than NASA's projections indicate ([Myhrvold, 2018](#)). These dissenting voices highlight the limits of human understanding and remind us of the unpredictability of celestial events.

In response to potential asteroid threats, NASA launched the Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) in 2021, aimed at altering asteroid trajectories through impact ([NASA, 2021](#)). This mission, conducted in collaboration with SpaceX and Johns Hopkins University, demonstrates humanity's growing capability to mitigate cosmic dangers. However, as advanced as these efforts are, they also underscore humanity's vulnerability in the face of celestial forces beyond our control.

Biblical Prophetic Background

The Bible frequently uses celestial events as symbols of divine judgment. [Revelation 8:10-11](#) describes the third trumpet judgment: *"Then the third angel sounded: And a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter"*. This description bears striking similarities to what scientists predict would happen if an asteroid like Apophis were to impact Earth. The *"burning like a torch"* matches the intense heat generated by an asteroid entering Earth's atmosphere. If such an object struck a body of water or contaminated groundwater sources, it could indeed affect *"a third of the rivers and springs of water."* The reference to waters becoming *"bitter"* aligns with how an asteroid impact could release toxic materials and chemicals into water systems, making them undrinkable and potentially lethal - much like the biblical Wormwood.

The name Apophis is derived from Apep, an Egyptian mythological serpent representing chaos and destruction. In Egyptian mythology, Apep battled the sun god Ra each night, embodying opposition to light and order (Wilkinson, 2003). This symbolism resonates also with the biblical figure Apollyon, described in the fifth trumpet as the angel of the bottomless pit and ruler of demonic forces: *"They had as king over them the angel of the abyss; his name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek he has the name Apollyon"*([Revelation 9:11](#)). Both names (*Abaddon and Apollyon*) mean *"Destroyer,"* just as Apophis (or Apep) represents a god of chaos and destruction. It is clear that Apollyon's role as the ruler of the abyss aligns with descriptions of the Antichrist, whose reign is marked by deception, destruction, and rebellion against God ([2 Thessalonians 2:3-4](#)). This connection gains deeper meaning when we consider that in biblical symbolism, stars often represent angelic beings, and since Lucifer rules over the fallen angels, we can identify this angel of the abyss. The Bible provides further clarity by giving him the Greek name Apollyon—who in Greek mythology is the son of Zeus. This creates a counterfeit of Christ, representing Satan's incarnation in the Antichrist (the son of perdition) and forming a dark parallel to the true Son of God.

The term *"wormwood"* refers to a bitter plant that plays a significant role in biblical prophecy, particularly during the Tribulation period. In [Jeremiah 9:15](#), it symbolizes divine judgment and bitter suffering. During the Tribulation judgments, Wormwood appears as the third trumpet judgment, representing God's severe punishment upon a rebellious world. The imagery of a great star falling from heaven suggests a catastrophic event, such as an asteroid impact. This connects to [Revelation 6:12-17](#), where the sixth seal reveals cosmic disturbances: *"I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind"*. These descriptions of celestial chaos align with the potential consequences of an asteroid impact, leading some Christians to consider whether Apophis could be the prophesied Wormwood that appears during the Tribulation judgments.

Judgments, and the Imminent Rapture

Given that both Wormwood and Apollyon are associated with trumpet judgments occurring during the Tribulation and Antichrist's reign, Apophis might be signaling the approaching of this period. This timing becomes particularly significant when considering the unprecedented acceleration of globalist agendas and technological systems in 2025 that could facilitate the Antichrist's future control - including digital currencies, biometric IDs, and AI governance systems. Since the Rapture of the Church precedes the Tribulation ([1 Thessalonians 4:16-17](#)), the convergence of these developments with Apophis may indicate that divine judgments—and consequently the Rapture—are drawing near. Jesus cautioned His followers to remain vigilant, saying, *"Now when these things begin to happen, stand up and lift your heads, because your redemption is near"* ([Luke 21:28](#)). The Apostle Paul also encouraged believers to live in readiness: *"For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ"* ([1 Thessalonians 5:9](#)). This promise assures Christians that they will be delivered before the time of God's wrath. Thus, the potential connection between Apophis and Wormwood, alongside accelerating end-times developments, underscores the urgency of spiritual preparedness.

Feasts and Prophetic Timelines

Let's examine some significant dates related to Apophis. Using the traditional Hebrew calendar (360 days per year), Campbell ([2025](#)) noted that counting back 3.5 years from Apophis's anticipated approach on April 13, 2029, leads us to the Feast of Tabernacles in 2025. This feast commemorates God's protection of His people during their wilderness journey and celebrates their deliverance from Egypt—where, notably, Apophis was a principal deity they were delivered from. Could this timing symbolize a parallel between God's deliverance of Israel from Egyptian bondage and the future deliverance of Christians from the Antichrist's reign?

This timing is particularly significant when we consider biblical prophecy, where Wormwood appears halfway through the seven-year Tribulation period. Around this time, two important Jewish festivals occur: the Feast of Trumpets (10 days before the Feast of Tabernacles) and the Feast of Pentecost (120 days before). While Pentecost was historically fulfilled through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2, the Feast of Trumpets remains unfulfilled. Intriguingly, Paul connects the concept of trumpets directly to the Rapture in [1 Thessalonians 4:16-17](#), suggesting this could be the *"last trumpet"* he refers to. The convergence of these three festivals within 120 days of each other in 2025 creates what many see as a meaningful prophetic pattern pointing toward the Rapture ([Joseph, 2024](#)).

Signs in the Heavens

Jesus emphasized the importance of celestial signs in the last days: *"There will be signs in the sun, moon, and stars; and on the earth, distress of nations, with perplexity"* ([Luke 21:25-26](#)). His warning in [Revelation 3:3](#) urges vigilance: *"...But if you are not alert, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you."* Modern astronomy has revealed numerous celestial phenomena, such as [comets NEOWISE and 2014 UN271](#), which remind us of the heavens' vastness and unpredictability. Interestingly, while NASA has made public announcements about Apophis's trajectory, their calculations have faced scrutiny and undergone revisions. Reports indicate that global elites have built elaborate underground bunkers to protect against potential catastrophes, which raises questions about the transparency of publicly shared information. The Book of Job highlights God's authority over the cosmos: *"He commands the sun not to shine and seals off the stars"* ([Job 9:7](#)). These passages underscore the theological significance of observing and interpreting heavenly events.

While the exact identity of Wormwood remains uncertain, the approach of Apophis invites serious reflection. The apparent discrepancy between NASA's public statements and the actions of those with access to privileged information raises important questions. Could this asteroid be a direct fulfillment of Revelation's prophecies, or does it serve as a symbolic warning of humanity's vulnerability? Scripture often uses vivid imagery to convey spiritual truths, and Wormwood's description—a star turning waters bitter—may not align precisely with Apophis' potential impact. However, its destructive power and symbolic connections cannot be easily dismissed, especially given the apparent preparatory measures being taken by those in positions of power and influence.

Reflection and Conclusion

As we reflect on these matters, several important questions arise. First, we must consider what the Wormwood prophecy might truly signify if Apophis is not its fulfillment. This prophecy could point to another future celestial event yet unknown to us, or it might represent a deeper spiritual metaphor that we are still striving to understand. Additionally, we should contemplate how our modern scientific capabilities, particularly in asteroid tracking and redirection, fit within God's sovereign control over creation. Perhaps most importantly, we must ask ourselves if we are truly spiritually prepared for Christ's return, remembering His warning in [Revelation 3:3](#): *"Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; keep it, and repent. But if you are not alert, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you."* This echoes Jesus's words in [Luke 21:28](#): *"When these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near."*

Whether or not Apophis fulfills the biblical prophecy of Wormwood, its approach serves as a vivid reminder of life's fragility and the vastness of God's creation. As believers, we are called to remain vigilant, discerning the signs of the times, and placing our trust in God's sovereignty. Let this event inspire us to live in readiness, sharing the hope of the gospel and looking forward to Christ's glorious return. As we observe the heavens, let us remember [Psalm 19:1](#): *"The heavens declare the glory of God, and the expanse proclaims the work of his hands"*.

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